

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00282 142112Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF CGE TRADE MISSION TO NYC

REF BA 121

1. AT TIME OF THEIR DEPARTURE FROM BUENOS AIRES (FRIDAY EVENING, JAN 10), CGE OFFICIALS STILL HAD NOT DECIDED WHICH MEMBERS OF GROUP WOULD BE VISITING WASHINGTON ON JAN 16 AND 17. AS IT TURNED OUT THAT ONLY "OFFICIAL" MEMBER OF MISSION WAS SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR RAUL DEJEAN DEL CASTILLO, WE JUDGE THAT THE GROUP TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON IS LIKELY TO BE SMALL AND INCLUDE THE LEADING OFFICIALS OF THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORING THE TRIP. IN ADDITION TO ING. JULIO BRONER, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACION GENERAL ECONOMICA (CGE), THE FOLLOWING ARE THE VIPS INCLUDED IN THE GROUP:

JOSE C. PIVA, DIRECTOR, CGE

RAUL DEJEAN DEL CASTILLO, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

OSVALDO P. LOMAZZI, MEMBER OF THE BOARD, CONFEDERACION
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00282 142112Z

INDUSTRIAL ARGENTINA

ALDO GILBERTO CARRIZO, CGE REPRESENTATIVE, PROVINCE OF CATAMARCA

ANTONIO LOVELLO, CGE REPRESENTATIVE, PROVINCE OF MENDOZA

FRANCISCO EDUARDO CERRO, SENATOR FROM PROVINCE OF SANTIAGO
DEL ESTERO

ALBERTO LUIS RUTNIZKY, HEAD OF PRESS DEPARTMENT, CGE

SENATOR CERRO, THOUGH A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, IS NOT RPT NOT TRAVELLING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGRESS, BUT AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE MISSION. CERRO IS A MEMBER OF SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONSTITUTIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND ON LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO LIMIT NUMBER OF VISITORS TO ABOVE BY ISSUING INVITATIONS OR SETTING NUMBER THEY ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE.

2. CHARGE BEAL GAVE LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF MISSION ON JAN 9. AT LUNCHEON BRONER PRESSED EMBOFFS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE HIS VISIT A SUCCESS. HE INDICATED HE WANTED TO COME BACK FROM US WITH SOMETHING TO "SHOW". HE SPOKE ABOUT A BREAK-THROUGH ON ARGENTINE EXPORTS OF FRESH MEAT, APPLES AND WOOL TO THE US. HE DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE ISSUE OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON ARGENTINE SHOES, SAYING HE HOPED TO CONSULT WITH US OFFICIALS ON THIS ISSUE. EMBOFFS ATTEMPTED TO BRING BRONER TO MORE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. HE ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE US TRADE ACT AND HIS INTEREST IN BEING BRIEFED ON THIS ISSUE.

3. WHILE WE EXPECT THE GROUP TO CONCENTRATE ON COMMERCIAL WORK AND TOURISM, BRONER'S BASIC INTEREST IS IN PROMOTING HIMSELF AND THE CGE, AND HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRY TO MAKE HEADLINES IN BUENOS AIRES WHILE HE IS IN THE US, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. BRONER IS ON THE DEFENSIVE THESE DAYS. THE CGE, UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, ENJOYED GREAT INFLUENCE DURING THE TENURE OF JOSE GELBARD IN THE ECONOMIC MINISTRY. IT WAS ABLE TO PRESSURE MOST OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS TO FALL IN LINE BEHIND BRONER AND GELBARD AND CARRIED OFF HEADLINE CATCHING TRADE MISSION TO EASTERN EUROPE AND CUBA. THE CGE BECAME ALMOST COMPLETELY IDENTIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 00282 142112Z

WITH GELBARD'S ECONOMIC POLICY. AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED "SOCIAL PACT", THE CGE BECAME, EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE, IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC MIND AS THE PERONIST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, GELBARD AND BRONER WERE NEVER REALLY ACCEPTED BY MANY ORTHODOX PERONISTS. GOMEZ MORALES (AN ORTHODOX PERONIST) WHO SUCCEEDED GELBARD, HAS STUDIOUSLY SOUGHT TO DILUTE THE IDENTIFICATION BRONER BUILT UP WITH HIS PREDECESSOR. BRONER'S AND THE CGE'S INFLUENCE

HAS DECLINED. THIS HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE CONTEXT
OF THIS TRADE MISSION WHICH DESPITE THE CGE'S EFFORTS INCLUDED
NONE OF THE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AND FANFARE
WHICH ACCOMPANIED PREVIOUS CGE MISSIONS. HOWEVER, THE CGE,
BY ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE "SOCIAL PACT" AND IN MANY JOINT
GOA-PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEES, IS STILL THE ONLY BUSINESS
ORGANIZATION WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT GOA
AGENCIES. THEREFORE, THE INFLUENCE CANNOT RPT CANNOT BE
DISCOUNTED. DECON 1/14/76.
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